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UPCOMING EVENTS

Great Backyard Bird Count
February 17-20, 2006
www.birdsource.org/gbbc

Great American Cleanup
March 1 - May 31, 2006
www.kab.org

Civil War Preservation Trust
Park Day
April 1, 2006
<http://www.civilwar.org/parkday>

National Youth Service Day
April 21-23, 2006
www.ysa.org/nysd

Earth Day
April 22, 2006

National Volunteer Week
April 23-29, 2006
www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw

National Arbor Day
April 28, 2006
www.arborday.org

Partners Outdoors Features Take Pride

On January 8-11, 2006, key figures in America's recreation community – top Federal and state agency representatives, recreation industry executives, and non-profit recreation leaders – gathered in Phoenix for three days of sharing and brainstorming at the 15th annual conference of Partners Outdoors. Their goal was to harness the power of new recreation tools to connect 21st century Americans to public lands and to enhance the visitors' experience.

Michelle Cangelosi, Acting Director of Take Pride, participated in the Partners Outdoors conference. Below is an account of her experience:

What a great couple of days we had at Partners Outdoors 2006! And I'm not speaking of the fabulous weather we had in Phoenix, I'm referring to the friendly and familiar faces I saw from the government officials, corporate executives and non-profit recreation leaders that were gathered together. It was a week of relationship building and of discussing ways to spread the messages on conservation, recreation, and volunteerism.

For this conference, we sought to recreate a Tool Box used by land managers and others interested in natural resource conservation. The Toolbox for the Great Outdoors, created in 2002, was a compendium of ideas for leveraging resources for recreation and conservation projects and programs on Federal lands. This year four groups were assembled to re-evaluate the Tool Box and make it more comprehensive and useful through a web-based program.

The highlight of my trip came on the last day when I participated in a live broadcast that featured taped highlights of the conference sessions and comments and perspectives of key Federal agency heads. During the first of two panels, we discussed portions of the Tool Box and offered feedback on the speakers' comments at the conference. I was also on-hand to unveil the Take Pride Event Planning Kit that includes our new informational DVD, *Take Pride in America - Here's Why*, which will be delivered to Take Pride partners in the weeks to come.

It was a thrill to be part of the broadcast that allows land managers and recreation groups that were absent to have an opportunity to still access the useful tools and resources that were presented. This was a new, alternative way to inform the people in the field of the many materials Take Pride has available to help promote volunteer events and projects. We look forward to our continued partnerships in 2006 and this was a wonderful way to kick-off the year.

Sincerely,

Michelle Cangelosi

Toolbox for the Great Outdoors Webcast

To view the Partners Outdoors broadcast segment featuring Take Pride, follow these simple steps:

- 1 - Visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/>.
- 2 - Click on the link to view the broadcast under 2006 Partners Outdoors Meeting.
- 3 - To specifically view the Take Pride portion, start at 01:03:30 minutes into the broadcast.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

United Desert Gateway Gathers 3,500 Volunteers for Sand Dunes Clean Up



Sand dunes enthusiasts who usually spend the weekend racing and riding along the sand dunes on the southern border of California and Arizona

took a weekend off for a little housekeeping. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, the off-road riders gathered to pick up litter and tidy up the north and south dunes of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA). The event on Saturday, January 14th, marked the 9th Annual Sand Dunes Cleanup.

This year, a new group helped sponsor the event. United Desert Gateway is a joint effort comprised of the BLM and the Chambers of Commerce of Yuma, El Centro and Brawley. They are also Take Pride's newest partnering organization. The United Desert Gateway was formed in 2004 in an effort to develop, support and improve communication and cooperation with the gateway communities to the ISDRA and other BLM managed lands in the region.

Thousands of volunteers participated in the clean up, with dune buggies zipping across the sand, scooping up trash and shoving it into countless garbage bags.

In fact, so many people came to participate, they ran out of trash bags toward the end of the event. Organizers planned incentives for the volunteers' hours of good work. Each trash bag earned them a raffle ticket for the afternoon drawing. Prizes included paddle tires, racing fuel, goggles, gift certificates and other items.

Volunteers were also rewarded with free t-shirts and an endless supply of barbecue, hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages.

Other sponsors of the event were KC Cycle of Yuma and True Excitement, a San Diego company.

Volunteers for the Sand Dune Clean Up register at the southern dunes (below) while volunteers of all ages participate in collecting litter from the dunes (right).



AWARDS SPOTLIGHT

Barbara Williams Earns Awards With Innovation, Energy

Folsom, CA – Barbara Williams is more than the volunteer coordinator and webmaster for the Folsom, California Field Office for the Bureau of Land Management; she takes on volunteer recruitment and project coordinator positions, as well. Located outside Sacramento, the field office staff says they're honored to recognize her time, efforts, skills and enthusiasm.

Barbara is receiving two awards, the Secretarial and the Presidential awards, for her hours of volunteer service to public lands. Throughout her five years of service, Barbara has contributed almost

10,000 hours to the BLM.

"Barbara is an unselfish volunteer and goes out of her way to include everyone. She has clever ideas to make each person feel a part of the team," said James Eicher, the associate field manager for the Folsom BLM office. "We're so busy in our office, but when Barbara has an idea, everyone stops and listens. Her energy is never ending; she's a real go-getter."

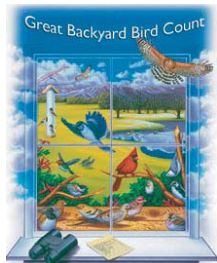
Barbara works to carefully match volunteers with appropriate programs, and is an advocate for the volunteers in the BLM office. She

constantly nominates others for awards and seeks to recognize volunteers for their efforts. An avid fly fisherman and wildlife photographer, Barbara demonstrates that her energy is boundless when it comes to her love of the outdoors.

Congratulations, Barbara, and thank you for your tireless service to our public lands!

Take Pride in America administers the Secretarial and Presidential awards for volunteers who have contributed 3,000 and 4,000 hours of work, respectively, on public lands. For more information, please visit our website or contact Lisa Young in the Take Pride office.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Great Backyard Bird Count

Don't forget to mark your calendar to participate in the nationwide Great Backyard Bird Count **February 17-20, 2006**. Participants

of all ages and every skill level can help by tracking local species of birds in their backyard, a local park or wildlife refuge. Sponsored by the National Audubon Society (a Take Pride supporter) and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, visit the website at www.birdsource.org/gbbc to find instructions and more information. Remember, everybirdy can participate!

Civil War Preservation Trust Park Day

For the second year, Take Pride is partnering with the Civil War Preservation Trust to celebrate Park Day. This year, on **April 1, 2006**, more than 90 events will be held at Civil War battlefields, monuments, and museums in 23 states and the District of Columbia. Volunteers are invited to lend a hand in cleaning, painting, clearing trails, planting trees, and other activities to preserve our Civil War heritage. For more information, visit the CWPT website at <http://www.civilwar.org/parkday>.



New Take Pride School!

Academy of Richmond County Comprehensive

High School in Augusta, GA

Principal David Robbins

Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride." Please keep sending us articles and photos at TakePride@ios.doi.gov for future newsletter editions or for publication on our website.

2006 Awards Application Now Available

The application for the 2006 Take Pride National Awards is now posted on our website at www.TakePride.gov. Applications can be completed online or submitted via fax.



All Take Pride events are eligible to be nominated, so long as it occurred or is in progress between June 5, 2005 and June 4, 2006. The application deadline is June 16, 2006. The Awards Ceremony will be in September 2006 in Washington, DC.

There are 12 categories for consideration of awards.

- Individual
- School Program (Elementary, Secondary, Post-Secondary)
- State Event/ Program
- Federal Land Managers
- Corporation
- Non-Profit Organization
- Faith Based Group
- Federal Volunteer Event/ Program
- Local Government Event/ Program
- Youth/ Youth Group
- Public/ Private Partnership
- Outstanding Take Pride Partner Award

For Your Information

If you would like our Take Pride Volunteer Guides, brochures or plastic banners for your next event, simply email us the quantity and we will send them to you. Additionally, we have other items that can be sent to help you reward your volunteers for their service. Please call us to discuss your needs.

To view a copy of the Volunteer Guide online visit http://www.takepride.info/volguide/doi_volguide.pdf

Please continue to look for the Take Pride public service announcements in print and broadcast on television. Let us know if you see one of our ads featuring the Take Pride message and Clint Eastwood.

Email takepride@ios.doi.gov if you have information for our newsletter, or if you have questions.